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throughout closely connected with the creation and development of free political institutions. The existence or non-existence of elections, together with the character of the elections if they do exist, furnish a clue to the general tone and character of the laws of any country or any period.

This book gives proof of the fact that if a man is allowed to write the election laws of a country, he need not worry as to who wrote the Constitution. The great advance towards fair elections was that made by the introduction of the Australian ballot system, the history and purposes of which are fully discussed in this volume. A still more recently developed method of voting is that by voting machines, which is still in an embryonic stage. There is a chapter on voting machines which is very illuminating.

The authors show plainly that the introduction of the Australian ballot, of primary nominations and of the initiative and referendum, has so entirely revolutionized American political conditions during the past quarter of a century, that the American elections and election laws with which the last generation was familiar bear almost no resemblance to those of today. They hold that the most enduring work which the present generation will accomplish in the field of Jurisprudence is the reform of the election laws.

*John Edward Oster.*

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